

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XX, EXRP, CA

SUBJECT: CERP 0002: RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

REF: DEPT'S A-6884 OF 8/10/73

PART I - NOT APPLICABLE.

PART II - NO COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION PLAYS A SIGNIFICANT
ROLE IN CANADA. IN 1973, THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMUNIST
PARTY IN CANADA (CP OF C) REMAINED AT ABOUT 1500 PERSONS.
MEMBERSHIP IN THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE DECLINED FROM
180 TO 160. TROTSKYIST MEMBERS NOW NUMBER ABOUT 450,
DOWN FROM 530 LAST YEAR. MEMBERSHIP IN THE MAOIST GROUP,
OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CANADA - MAOIST/LENISIST (CP OF C-
M/L) DECLINED IN 1973 FROM 300 TO 275.

PART III - NOT APPLICABLE.

PART IV A - (1) X THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA IS PRESENTING
A COMPREHENSIVE SUMMARY OF ITS CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL
RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION AT
THE 1973 NATO WORKING GROUP ON EAST-WEST
CONTACTS. A COPY OF THIS REPORT IS BEING PROVIDED BY

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THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AT THE WORKING GROUP MEETING.

(2) THE MAJOR NEW DEVELOPMENT ON THE EXCHANGE SCENE IS THE NEW CULTURAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE GOC. THIS WILL MEAN MORE ACTIVITY ON THE PART OF THE CHINESE, PARTICULARLY IN WESTERN CANADA WHERE THE CHINESE HAVE BEEN GRANTED PERMISSION IN PRINCIPLE TO OPEN A CONSULATE. THE TWO ON-GOING PROGRAMS ARE FUNCTIONING NOW. A GROUP OF NINE PRC STUDENTS ARE PRESENTLY STUDYING AT CARLETON UNIVERSITY IN OTTAWA AND A SMILAR GROUP OF CANADIANS ARE ABOUT TO GO TO CHINA FOR A YEAR'S ACADEMIC STUDY. A CANADIAN MEDICAL TEAM HAS VISITED CHINA AND RETURNED PRAISING ACUPUNCTURE, FULLY REPORTED IN THE CANADIAN MEDIA.

(3) ACTIVITY BY THE CHINESE WILL REPRESENT THE MAJOR CHANGE OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR ON THE PART OF EXCHANGES WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. MANY OF THE ACTIVITIES LISTED IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT HAVE YET TO BE WORKED OUT, BUT THE NEW CULTURAL AGREEMENT WILL INTENSIFY THE FREQUENCY OF EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE PRC AND CANADA.

PART IV B - (1) THE SOVIET UNION HAS PRESENTED SEVERAL CULTURAL SPECTACULARS IN THE PAST YEAR AND THEY SEEM TO ATTACH CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO THIS ACTIVITY. THE RED ARMY CHORUS, FOR EXAMPLE, TOURED CANADA THIS SUMMER UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE CANADIAN-SOVIET CULTURAL AGREEMENT. THE MOSCOW CIRCUS HAS ALSO PERFORMED THIS YEAR IN SEVERAL CANADIAN CITIES. THESE PERFORMANCES ARE NOTABLY VOID OF PROPAGANDA EXCEPT FOR THE OCCASIONAL ANTI-WAR SONG SUNG BY THE RED ARMY CHORUS IN ENGLISH.

(2) WE CAN EXPECT A FAIRLY STEADY STREAM OF SOVIET CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS IN THE COMING MONTHS BUT, TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THERE WILL NOT BE AN APPRECIABLE INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR. HOWEVER, THE SIZE AND SCOPE OF SOVIET CULTURAL EFFORTS HERE INDICATE THAT CANADA HAS A HIGH PRIORITY IN SOVIET PLANS.

(3) THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WILL UNDOUBTEDLY EXPAND THEIR CULTURAL PROGRAMS IN CANADA AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT CULTURAL AGREEMENT WORKED OUT DURING PRIME SECRET

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MINISTER TRUDEAU'S VISIT TO CHINA. WE CAN EXPECT SEVERAL CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS IN 1974 SUCH AS THE VERY SUCCESSFUL ACROBATIC TEAMS THAT IMPRESSED BOTH CANADIAN AND AMERICAN AUDIENCES IN 1973. UNDOUBTEDLY, THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY CHINESE CULTURAL PERFORMANCES IN WESTERN CANADA. SINCE VANCOUVER HAS THE SECOND LARGEST CHINESE COMMUNITY IN NORTH AMERICA (AFTER SAN FRANCISCO) TO SUPPORT THESE PRESENTATIONS WE CAN EXPECT A RAPIDLY EXPANDING CHINESE

CULTURAL/PROPAGANDA PROGRAM IN THIS AREA.

(4) THE LEVEL OF INFORMATION ACTIVITIES REPORTED LAST YEAR HAVE NOT APPRECIABLY ALTERED THIS YEAR. MOST EASTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES HAVE SOME TYPE OF PRESS CONTACT PROGRAM BUT IT IS LOW KEY AND RESTRICTED. THE SOVIETS PUT OUT A GLOSSY MONTHLY MAGAZINE THAT LISTS THE SOVIET INFORMATION OFFICER AS EDITOR AND THERE IS A STEADY FLOW OF INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS RELEASED TO THE PRESS. THE CHINESE ARE NOT VERY ACTIVE ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE A FIRST SECRETARY FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND A THIRD SECRETARY FOR PRESS. THIS COULD CHANGE RAPIDLY AS A RESULT OF THE NEW CULTURAL AGREEMENT.

(5) THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HAS TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT EASTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES FREQUENTLY ASK THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT FOR MORE CULTURAL EXCHANGES BUT THE GOC IS RESISTING THESE OVERTURES AND AT LEAST TRYING TO KEEP THEM TO REASONABLE PROPORTIONS. SCHMIDT

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